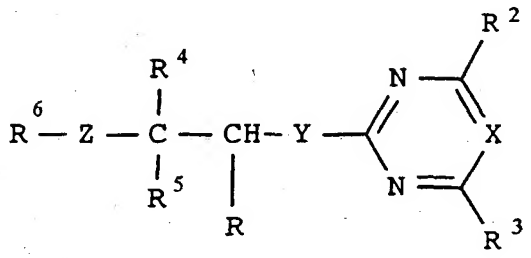
We claim:

A carboxylic acid derivative of the formula I



I

where R is formyl, tetrazole [sic], nitrile [sic], a COOH group or a radical which can be hydrolyzed to COOH, and the other substituents have the following meanings:

R^2 hydrogen, hydroxyl, NH_2, $NH(C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl})$, $N(C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl})_2$, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy or C_1-C_4-alkylthio;

X nitrogen or CR^{14} where R^{14} is hydrogen or C_{1-5}-alkyl, or CR^{14} forms together with CR^3 a 5- or 6-membered alkylene or alkenylene ring which can be substituted by one or two C_{1-4}-alkyl groups and in which in each case a methylene group can be replaced by oxygen, sulfur, -NH or $-NC_{1-4}$-alkyl;

R^3 hydrogen, hydroxyl, NH_2, $NH(C_1-C_4\text{-Alkyl})$, $N(C_1-C_4\text{-alkyl})_2$, halogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, $-NH-O-C_{1-4}$-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylthio or CR^3 is linked to CR^{14} as indicated above to give a 5- or 6-membered ring;

R^4 and R^5 (which can be identical or different):

phenyl or naphthyl, which can be substituted by one or more of the following radicals: halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, phenoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino or C_1-C_4-dialkylamino; or

phenyl or naphthyl, which are connected together in the ortho positions via a direct linkage, a methylene, ethylene or ethenylene group, an oxygen or sulfur atom or an SO_2, NH or N-alkyl group

or C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl;

R^6 hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl or C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, where each of these radicals can be substituted one or more times by: halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_3-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_{3-8}-alkylcarbonylalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, di-C_1-C_4-alkylamino, phenyl or phenyl or phenoxy which is substituted one or more times, eg. one to three times, by halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy or C_1-C_4-alkylthio;

phenyl or naphthyl, each of which can be substituted by one or more of the following radicals: halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, amino, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, phenoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino or dioxomethylene [sic] or dioxoethylene [sic];

a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic moiety containing one to three nitrogen atoms and/or one sulfur or oxygen atom, which can carry one to four halogen atoms and/or one or two of the following radicals: C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, phenyl, phenoxy or phenylcarbonyl, it being possible for the phenyl radicals in turn to carry one to five halogen atoms and/or one to three of the following radicals: C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy and/or C_1-C_4-alkylthio;

with the proviso that R^6 can be hydrogen only when Z is not a single bond;

Y sulfur or oxygen or a single bond;

Z sulfur, oxygen, -SO-, $-SO_2-$ or a single bond.